

SAINT IVES, (HUNTS.)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

For the Year 1900,

BY

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ST. IVES (Hunts.) RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to present to the Authority my annual report for the year, 1900.

1.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of deaths registered is 176. The deaths Death Rate outside the district of persons belonging thereto are respectively—1 in Fulbourn Asylum and 1 in the Three Counties Asylum, which must be added ; while 8, which have occurred in the Union Workhouse of persons not belonging to the district, must be subtracted. The corrected number is 170, equal to a death-rate from all diseases of 16·9 per thousand living per annum. The rate for the previous year was 16·0. The death-rate in England and Wales for the same period is given as 18·3 in the summary of the Registrar General contained in the appendix to his report for the last quarter of the year.

Zymotic
Mortality

Deaths in the groups of zymotic disease in the entire district have been from Diphtheria 4 ; Typhoid Fever 1 ; Whooping Cough 7 ; and Diarrhoea 2 ; Total 14 ; equal to a death-rate from these diseases of 1·39 per thousand living per annum.

Influenza.

Influenza has caused 7 deaths.

Birth Rate.

The total number of births registered in the entire district is 233, equal to a birth-rate of 23·2 per thousand living per annum. The birth-rate in England and Wales for the same period is given as 28·9

Infantile
Mortality

Infantile mortality as represented by the ratio of deaths of children under one year of age to 1000 registered births, varied in the several sub-districts, viz : in Warboys 66 ; in Somersham 183 ; in St. Ives 134.

After assigning to each sub-district its share of the deaths in the above three public institutions, as per subjoined table, the vital statistics are respectively :—Warboys, general death-rate 14·0 ; zymotic death-rate 0·3 ; birth-rate 31·9 ; Somersham, general death-rate 17·7 ; zymotic death-rate 1·4 ; birth-rate 17·5 ; St. Ives, general death-rate 18·4 ; zymotic death-rate 2·1 ; birth-rate 20·9.

SUB-DISTRICTS.	Register'd Deaths.	Share of Work-house.	Adden-brooke's Hospital.	Three Counties' Asylum,	Corrected Totals.	Death Rate.
Warboys	40	...	...	...	40	14·0
Somersham	53	8	...	...	61	17·7
St. Ives	55	12	1	1	69	18·4
Entire District...	148	20	1	1	170	16·4

There is a slight increase of mortality over that of the previous year, chiefly due to an increase of infantile mortality, in each of the sub-districts, especially in the Somersham sub-district. There is also an increase in the number of deaths from Phthisis ; the death rate from this disease is 0·9, and that for the previous year 0·3.

Phthisis.

The number of deaths due to Cancer is identical with that of the previous year, the death rate from this disease is 1·1.

Cancer.

Deaths due to diseases of the respiratory organs have slightly decreased.

2.—DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Diseases of Zymotic character have been slightly above those of the previous year ; the increase being chiefly due to an increase in the number of cases of diphtheria.

Disease
Incidence

Small Pox has not been present throughout the year.

Small Pox.

Nineteen sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever dotted about the district but in no sense epidemic have been notified,—one at Earith, four at Somersham, one at Bluntisham in the Somersham sub-district, and two at Fenstanton, five at Hemingford Grey, three at Wyton, one at Hilton, two at Houghton in the St. Ives sub-district.

Scarlatina

With regard to the cases in the Somersham sub-district the first case was notified at the end of March at Earith Bridge ; on inquiry it was found to be in the Willingham parish of the Rural District of Chesterton. At Somersham a solitary case was notified early in March, the origin of which could not be traced. Three cases in one household were notified at the end of October ; the origin of the first could not be traced, but there is some reason to think there were several unrecognised cases in the village. One case occurred at an isolated cottage in Bluntisham parish ; it appeared on visiting the case that the disease according to the statement of the mother of the child really commenced in her family in the middle of May and must have been introduced from St. Ives or Earith. As no medical advice had been sought these earlier cases have not been notified.

With regard to the cases in the St. Ives sub-district two cases in one family at Fenstanton were notified in the middle of January ; no distinct trace of the origin of the first case could be ascertained but there is reason to believe it was imported. Five cases occurred in three households at Hemingford Grey ; four cases in two households in March, and one in another household in June. The origin of the first could not be traced, but the others would appear to have been in more or less direct sequence. Three cases in one household were notified in July at Wyton ; the source of infection could not be traced, but it is just possible that it may have been contracted from a family of the same name at Bluntisham ; at the same time none the less it should be stated that at the end of the year 1899 there had been cases at the next house and a house opposite and it is possible that the infection had lingered in some material which had escaped disinfection at one of these houses. One case in July at a Farm House, Hilton, and two cases in one household at Houghton at the end of December could not be accounted for ; the two latter cases were removed to the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria

Twenty-one cases of Diphtheria have been notified, the majority occurring in epidemic form at Somersham and Earith which together with one at Hemingford Grey were made the subject of a special report of July 9th, which is appended below :—

“I beg leave to report for the information of the Council on an epidemic of Diphtheria, which assailed especially the village of Earith. The earliest case notified was at Church End, Earith, (February 6th, of the present year) ; this case was a child only four years of age, and no satisfactory reason could be found for the infection ; there were, however, two circumstances of some interest in connexion with the case :—(1) The house is the same in which a child died of the same disease three years ago, and it is not altogether an unusual circumstance for Diphtheria to recur at distant intervals of time in the same household. (2) The child had been to Wisbech with its mother and was taken ill on the fifth day after return home ; the disease may therefore have been contracted at this

place, but there was no confirmatory evidence. No other case followed in the District till April 26th, when a case was notified at High Street, Somersham ; this, like the former, could not be directly associated with any antecedent case. Then followed a succession of cases at Earith, commencing with a notification on April 29th, and extending to June 9th, during which period six cases (one fatal) in five households were notified ; during this period one case at Filbert's Row, Hemingford Grey, was notified, May 26th. My visit to the latter elicited no information bearing on the crigin of infection. Inquiry into the cases at Earith pointed to school assemblage as a factor in the spread of the disease, and in view of this indication, coupled with the fact that the Earith School receives pupils as well from Bluntisham in this District, and from Aldreth in the Ely Rural District, and from the extreme end of Willingham in the Chesterton Rural District, as well as from Earith itself, the schools were closed for a period. The source of introduction of the disease into the school none the less still remained obscure, but in my capacity as Health Officer for Ely Rural District Council and Chesterton Rural District Council, respectively, I obtained information, which tended to throw light on this question as well as to support the theory of school assemblage as a factor of propogation ; on April 12th and 19th respectively, two cases (one fatal) occurred in the same household, Hilrow Causeway, Haddenham, and on June 26th, another case occurred in another household situated on the opposite side of the same road. I found on visiting the former household that there had been social intercourse with a family living near Earith Bridge in the Willingham Parish of the Chesterton District, where there had been notified two cases, one in September, 1899, and the second case, January 9th, of the current year, and subsequently a case in another household. It seems not unfair therefore to assume that the epidemic started in the former household in the Chesterton District whence it was conveyed partly by school assemblage, and partly by social intercourse into the adjoining parishes of Haddenham and Earith. Subjoined to the official copies is a plan illustrating the topographical relations. It is probable that the Somersham and Hemingford Grey cases also formed part of the epidemic, although there is no direct evidence in support of this opinion. The former was the wife of a fruit salesman, whose circuit included the village of Earith ; moreover the family had friends at Earith, whom they were accustomed to visit, but I could not ascertain that they had been to a known infected house ; on the other hand there is a history of a visit of

two sisters from Liverpool, one of whom since her return home has had a "sore throat." The family at Hemingford Grey are cousins of two infected families at Earith, and Mr. Archer has with much adroitness discovered that there had been a visit of the Hemingford Grey family, including the girl attacked to Earith.

School closure, school exclusion, disinfection and advice have been the measures of prevention adopted.

BUSHELL ANNINGSO, M.O.H."

At the period of this epidemic no prophylactic treatment or antitoxin had been established, and there was a doubt in my mind as to the legality of incurring the necessary expense on the part of the Council.

After several weeks abatement there was a slight recrudescence of the disease at Earith, viz : six cases in three households during July, after which there was another period of abatement. On Oct. 2nd another case was notified when some doubt was expressed as to the real nature of the disease ; subsequently a second case was notified in November in the same household. Two cases were notified at Somersham on November 6th, and December 27th respectively. During the period of these latter cases prophylactic treatment by antitoxin injections was adopted. As a further precautionary measure the schools were closed.

At Fenstanton two cases in one household were notified in January. On visiting the household no satisfactory clue as to the source of infection could be discovered. One case was notified in July at Broughton but the nature of the disease was extremely doubtful. One case was notified at Needingworth in December ; the patient was a domestic who had been in service at Cambridge, and it may reasonably be supposed that she contracted the disease at that place.

One case of Typhoid Fever was notified at Earith in July and was probably due to polluted water. One case was notified at Somersham in September ; the sanitary condition of the premises was exceedingly bad ; the water supply is derived from a well in a neighbouring yard ; is thence conducted to a pump reservior on the premises by a pipe which traverses through a saturated soil. Typhoid Fever

One case at Warboys was notified as “ Continued Fever ” whatever that may mean ; on visiting the household there did not appear to be any reason for any active sanitary interference. Continued Fever

It has been necessary to close the Schools at Warboys and Fenstanton ; the former on account of an epidemic of Influenza, and the latter on account of an epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough. Measles
Whooping
Cough

I am pleased to be able to record that an arrangement has been made between the District Council and the Joint Committee of the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital by which this Council is entitled, in consideration of an annual payment, to the use of eight beds in that institution, provided the same are empty. As mentioned above this facility has already been utilised. As the above arrangement is for the admission of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria patients only, moveable huts will be provided for the isolation of Small-pox patients in the place where the disease may appear. Isolation
Hospital

3.—WATER SUPPLY.

In regard to the question of water supply to Earith, the matter may be put most clearly by the following extract from a special report made by me on July 10th :— Water Supply.

“ Incidental to the investigations into the circumstances of the
“ epidemic of Diphtheria, my attention has been directed to the
“ question of Water Supply and of the disposal of Sewage at the
“ New Lode, Earith. In my opinion neither question had any
“ relation as an operating factor in the spread of Diphtheria ; at
“ the same time it may be right to place before the Council the
“ results of my observations. A sample of the water supplied by
“ the pump at the New Lode was taken for me by Inspector Archer,
“ which proved on analysis to be so highly polluted that a notice

“ was affixed directing that the water should be boiled before being
 “ drunk. It may be remembered that during the year 1892, a
 “ a scheme was set afoot for an improved supply of water to Earith,
 “ and I made a special inspection and report, but there was no
 “ practical outcome of these efforts. On the occasion of my recent
 “ visit I was reminded of these circumstances and a new source of
 “ water supply from an adjacent gravel bed indicated ; I brought
 “ away a sample for my private examination and found it to be a
 “ very fair water, which, if passed through a simple sand or
 “ polarite filter might be utilised for the supply of the village.”

This well had some time antecedently been opened and cleansed and a 2-inch lead service pipe, 170 feet long, laid from the well to the New Lode pump, to replace a defective pipe. On opening the well, the top of which is domed over at about 5 feet below the ground level, it was found that the public sewer which passes near by the well was defective, thereby allowing contamination of the well water by sewage matter.

At North End, Warboys, the supply became scanty during the summer, and water was carted from the reservoir to the well.

At Warboys, Wistow and Bury respectively, in order to prevent needless waste of water, the public pumps were kept locked during the day, and an attendant engaged to supply the inhabitants with water night and morning.

At Fenstanton, the public well on the Green was opened and cleaned out.

At Broughton, the brooks from which water for domestic purposes is obtained have been cleaned out.

Parish Pumps have been repaired at Broughton 1, Colne 2, Earith 2, Pidley 1, Somersham 2, Warboys 2, and Wistow 1.

Parish Ponds have been cleaned out at Fenstanton 2, Hemingford Grey 1, and Woodhurst 1.

4.—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

At Earith the sewer which was found to be defective, allowing contamination of the water of the well referred to above, has been taken up and relaid with 6 inch glazed earthenware socketted pipes, caulked with cement.

The cesspools into which the drains of the Back Street empty have been opened and cleaned out twice during the year.

Early in the year the old sewer at New Lode, was extended some 20 yards, and a settling cesspool built near the river so as to partially abate the nuisance caused by pollution of the river by the solids of the sewage. In regard to this work I may again quote from my special report of the 10th July, as follows :—

“In regard to the disposal of sewage, the catch-pit and overflow at the New Lode, does not appear to be regarded by some persons as entirely satisfactory ; at the time of my visit there was no nuisance to complain of, but none the less I can imagine that when the catch-pit is full and overflowing into the Lode, a nuisance may arise. The interposition of a coke-breeze filter, which need not be an expensive construction, would, I think, be beneficial. Should the Council see fit to adopt some such filtering arrangement, I would indicate the necessary details of construction.”

At Somersham the drains from the Bank Houses have been diverted from the Cranbrook water course ; this completes the scheme of division of the sewage of Somersham, which I had suggested some year or two ago, and obviates to a very large extent the nuisance that used to be complained of.

At Hemingford Grey a new drain has been provided at the School to carry away surface water.

At Hemingford Abbots earthenware gulleys have been substituted in the main street for the surface water cesspits.

5.—REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

Under this head I may revert to my remarks for the year 1899 with regard to some of the larger villages.

Removal of
Refuse

6.—POLLUTION OF STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES.

The pollution of the New Lode at Earith already mentioned may be adverted to here as an instance which should be dealt with. At Fenstanton further measures would seem desirable to purify the sewage of the town before passing into the Hall Green brook.

Pollution of
Streams and
Watercourses

7.—PREMISES REGULATED BY SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

Inspections.

No systematic inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops has yet been attempted under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order. Slaughter houses are examined periodically by the Inspector of Nuisances.

House
Sanitation

8.—HOUSE SANITATION.

At Somersham, in consequence of a case of Typhoid Fever already mentioned, the midden pits to some cottages have been abolished and pail closets substituted.

The school offices in the district have been inspected, and where defects or nuisances have been discovered, these have been rectified on notice from the Inspector of Nuisances.

At Bury, three houses which were in a dilapidated condition, have been pulled down by the owner and the ground on which they stood given to widen the roadway. The dilapidated house at Bury mentioned in my previous report has been closed by the owner.

At Hemingford Grey two cases of over-crowding have been reported and satisfactorily abated, in one instance by the removal of the family to another house and the other by removal of some members of the family.

9.—PERMISSIVE ACTS.

Permissive Act

My suggestions in my report for the year 1899, with regard to Permissive Acts have not yet been acted on.

I have to call attention to the new statistical tables required by the Local Government Board, and beg leave to express a hope that the notes appended thereto, will be sufficiently explanatory of their object ; these and all the above remarks, together with the table of Inspector's work, I respectfully submit for the consideration of the Rural District Council.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*For the St. Ives (Hunts.) Rural District Council,
OF THE SANITARY WORK COMPLETED IN THE
YEAR 1900.*

Complaints received during the year	...	...	...	85
Houses, Premises, &c., Inspected	..	...	...	220
Re-Inspection of Houses, Premises, &c.	...	...	...	135
Cases of Overcrowding reported and abated	...	...	...	2
Dilapidated houses reported	...	...	...	4
Dwellings Disinfected after illness of an infectious character				11
House Drains repaired, cleansed, trapped, &c.	...	...	...	11
Privies, &c., repaired	...	...	...	21
Privies, new provided	...	...	...	3
Pail closets substituted for Privies (row of cottages)	...	...	...	2
Cesspools cleaned out	...	...	...	7
Offensive Ditches cleaned	...	...	...	2
Unwholesome Waters, &c.	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other refuse removed	...	...	...	24
Swine Nuisances abated	...	...	...	4
Public Sewer extended	...	...	...	1
Public Sewer repaired	...	...	...	1
Parish Pumps repaired	...	...	...	10
Parish Ponds cleaned out	...	...	...	4

(Signed),

J. ARCHER,

Inspector.

TABLE I.
For the whole of the SAINT IVES (Hunts.) RURAL DISTRICT.

Table showing Vital Statistics for the year 1900 and the antecedent five years.

YEAR.	Population—Census 1891.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895... ..	10018	253	25·2	34	134	187	18·6	21	5	7	189	18·8
1896... ..	„	271	27·0	32	118	152	15·1	9	5	...	147	14·6
1897... ..	„	240	23·9	28	117	146	14·5	12	2	4	148	14·7
1898... ..	„	245	24·4	25	101	151	15·0	12	4	1	148	14·7
1899... ..	„	255	25·4	23	90	158	15·7	23	3	6	161	16·0
Averages for years 1895—1899...	10018	249	24·8	28	116	159	15·8	15	4	3	158	15·7
1900.....	10018	233	23·2	28	120	176	17·5	28	8	2	170	16·9

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-resident” is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).....	44957.
Total population at all ages.....	10,018
Number of inhabited houses	2,299
Average number of persons per house.....	4·5

At Census
of 1891.

TABLE II.
St. Ives (Hunts.) Rural District.

Table showing Estimated Population, Births, Corrected Deaths at all ages and Infant Mortality for the year 1900 and the antecedent five years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1 Whole District.				2 Warboys.				3 Somersham.				4 St. Ives.			
	Population. Census 1891.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population. Census 1891.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population. Census 1891.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population. Census 1891.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1895.....	10018	253	189	34	2847	89	61	18	3434	79	54	9	3737	85	74	7
1896.....	10018	271	147	32	2847	90	45	10	3434	66	55	8	3737	115	47	14
1897.....	10018	240	148	28	2847	83	49	10	3434	75	52	9	3737	82	47	9
1898.....	10018	245	148	25	2847	98	46	12	3434	58	45	4	3737	89	57	9
1899.....	10018	255	161	23	2847	90	44	4	3434	70	49	8	3737	95	68	11
Averages of years 1895—1899	10018	253	158	28	2847	90	49	11	3434	69	51	8	3737	93	58	10
1900.....	10018	233	170	28	2847	91	40	6	3434	60	61	11	3737	82	69	11

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table are areas of which the population is obtainable from the census returns. Block 1 is used for the whole district : and blocks 2, 3 and 4 for the several localities.
(b) Deaths of residents occurring beyond the district are included in the sub-columns c of this table, and those of non-residents registered in the district are excluded.
(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are allotted to the respective localities, according to addresses of the deceased.

TABLE III.

Saint Ives (Hunts.) Rural District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in Whole District.					Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			No of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				1	2	3	1	2	3
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.						
					25 to 65.						
					65 and upwards.						
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	21	4	12	1	4	1	16	4	...	...	...
Membranous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	17	...	...	1	13	4	9	4	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	19	5	11	3	...	...	6	13	...	...	2
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	60	9	24	6	18	6	32	22	...	...	2

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table are the same as those in Tables II, and IV.

By arrangement between the Rural District Council and the Joint Committee of the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital, infectious cases belonging to this district are admitted into that Institution.

TABLE IV.

St. Ives (Hunts.) Rural District.

Causes of Death at several age periods during the Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATH IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES)			DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Warboys	Somersham	St. Ives.	
Smallpox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ...	7	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	..
Croup	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Fever { Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteric	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
	Other continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza ...	7	..	..	..	..	2	5	2	2	3	1
Cholera ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea. (<i>See notes at back</i>) ...	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Enteritis. <i>See notes at back</i>) ...	3	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..
Puerperal Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Other septic diseases ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	10	1	1	..	2	4	2	1	2	7	2
Other tubercular diseases	6	1	2	1	..	2	..	2	3	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	12	..	..	..	..	5	7	5	2	5	2
Bronchitis	16	4	..	..	..	2	10	7	5	4	2
Pneumonia	4	2	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	3	..
Pleurisy	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism. Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	2	..
Venereal diseases ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth ...	10	10	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	3	..
Diseases and accidents of Parturition ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases... ..	12	..	..	1	..	7	4	2	5	5	1
Accidents	3	..	..	1	..	2	..	2	1	..	..
Suicides ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes ...	67	4	1	15	47	13	28	26	13
All causes	170	28	12	8	2	41	79	40	61	69	22

See Notes at back.

NOTES.

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- (a) The deaths of residents occurring beyond the limits of the district are included in this table, and deaths of non-residents occurring in the district are excluded. *See* note on Table I. as to meaning of “Residents” and “Non-residents.”
- (b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions have been allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars, and, in addition, have been classified under “Public Institutions.”
- (c) Under the heading of “Diarrhoea” are included deaths certified as from diarrhoea, alone or in combination with some other causes of ill-defined nature ; and also deaths certified as from
- Epidemic enteritis ;
 - Zymotic enteritis ;
 - Epidemic diarrhoea. Summer diarrhoea ;
 - Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhoea ;
 - Choleraic diarrhoea, cholera, cholera nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera),

Under the heading of “Enteritis” are included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis and Gastric catarrh, unless, from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term “Diarrhoea.”

Deaths from diarrhoea secondary to some other well-defined disease have been included under the latter.

